



**Executive Committee
In Person Meeting
July 12, 2021 – 5:00 pm**

MINUTES

Members Present

Clarendon County: Julia Nelson
Lee County: Travis Windham, Grady Brown, Will Wheeler
Sumter County: Steve Corley, Jim McCain, Vivian McGhaney
Kershaw County: Sammie Tucker, Jr., Jeffrey Graham

Members Absent:

Kershaw County: Alfred Mae Drakeford
Clarendon County: Kevin Johnson, Dwight Stewart

1. **Welcome and Call to Order:** Chairman Julia Nelson called the meeting to order at 5:05pm.
2. **Invocation:** Mayor Grady Brown provided the invocation.
3. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Chairman Julia Nelson led the pledge of allegiance and all attendees participated.
4. **Quorum Determination:** Board Clerk, Linda Jackson, determined there was a quorum: 9 of 12 Executive Committee members were present.
5. **Adoption of Agenda:** Sammie Tucker provided the motion to adopt the agenda. Jeffery Graham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was passed unanimously.
6. **Approval of Previous Minutes:** Executive Director Chris McKinney made one correction to the previous minutes. Item number 7— The following correction was to add “The motion passed unanimously.” Chairman Nelson entertained a motion to adopt the minutes with the noted correction on item 7. Sammie Tucker and Jeffrey Graham abstained due to not being present at the last Executive Committee meeting. Vivian McGhaney made the motion and was seconded by Jim McCain. The motion passed unanimously with the members that voted.
7. **Bishopville Grant Update:** Executive Director McKinney informed the board that his staff met with Bishopville’s City Manager Gregg McCutchen and his staff on July 7th to review all the Grants that the COG is currently administering for the City of Bishopville. During the meeting Mr. McCutchen felt he had a good understanding of the status on all grants, and he knew what his staff needed to provide the COG to move forward with the grant reimbursement process. The most confusion surrounded understanding of the reimbursement process for EDA Grants. Mr. McKinney explained EDA Grants do not reimbursement in phases. Costs are reimbursed at the end. Councilman Travis Windham asked Executive Director McKinney if he was able to establish a timetable on when the monies will be reimbursed. Mr. McKinney stated that he was not able to give a timetable. He informed the group that once all the required documentations ~~are~~ received, the information will be submitted to EDA. At this

point it will be up to the individual funding agencies to complete the reimbursement process unless further documentation is required for the closeout.

Executive Director McKinney asked to address one issue in the letter sent from Mayor Grady Brown and was given permission by Chairman Julia Nelson. Executive Director McKinney addressed the issue of the term “misappropriation of funds”. He explained that typically when a board member is requesting an update on a grant, the board member will call him directly or send an email to ask for an update. He then and he will reach out to staff to gather information and provide it accordingly. The Executive Director expressed that when Mayor Brown and Councilman Travis Windham came to the June Executive Committee Meeting and requested to amend the agenda to discuss the concerns in front of the entire Executive Committee as a whole, instead of talking directly to him one on one, this made him feel like this was an escalation. Executive Director McKinney also indicated that during the meeting there was a time when the tone escalated when Mayor Brown indicated that the people of Bishopville needed to know the status of the monies. Mayor Brown stated that at no time did he feel like there was a misappropriation of funds by the COG.

8. **Kershaw County Delegation Update:** Executive Director Chris McKinney informed the Board that he met with Rep. Dabney about serving on the Board. Rep. Dabney did not express interest in serving on the COG Board. Executive Director McKinney stated that he reached out to Senator Gustafson, who has expressed great interest in serving on the COG Board. Senator Gustafson will be taking the Kershaw County Delegation seat on the COG Board starting at the August COG Board Meeting. The Board Clerk Linda Jackson will start the process of onboarding Senator Gustafson.
9. **CDBG- CV Grant Update:** Executive Director Chris McKinney reminded the Executive Committee that there was funding available through the Cares Act, through the Department of Commerce. The approval process for these funds is moving slow, however the COG has submitted four grants for our four-county region. Executive Director McKinney stated none of the four grants have been approved at this point due to a very arduous process. We have \$858,437.50 of guaranteed funds that we will utilize to put Far UVC technology on our school buses. The second grant is for the town of Pinewood, for \$202,183.68. The COG is working with Mayor Spann, and the Sumter County Administrator to help install a playground to include a basketball court. The third grant is for the City of Manning for \$496,875.00, and the City will provide matching funds to make the grant more competitive. This grant will be used for creating a Green Space. The last competitive grant is for the regional Councils on Aging in the amount of \$521,196.00 to supply one senior center in each county a walk-in freezer and a generator. Executive Director McKinney informed the Board that all the grants were competitive except for the first. He added that he and Mr. Cyphers are developing skills in grant writing.
10. **Bishopville Truck Route Update:** Executive Director McKinney informed the board that SCDOT notified him on June 26th, that there is going to be a cost increase for this project. The current projected cost is \$32.5M which is a \$1.5M increase. The increase is due to SCDOT informed him that due to wetlands there will be the need for at least one bridge. This increase will be to the Planning and Engineering budget. Executive Director McKinney informed the group YTD \$8M has been spent on planning and engineering. Mr. Sammie Tucker suggested that the two-cent gas tax may be available to use for the building of the bridges. Mr. McKinney stated that he will inquire about the gas tax and its possible use.
11. **NIP Update:** Executive Director McKinney informed the board that the COG recently sold 49 properties to the City of Sumter. This partnership with the city made the Regional Development Corporation (RDC) whole with the \$119,000 sale. The COG will work with a broker for the sale of the remaining properties. The funding from selling the properties will be put back into the RDC for future projects. The RDC recently approved the sale of two of the properties to the Sumter County Disability

and Special Needs Board. One property sold for \$18,000, and one sold for \$11,000. The funds for the two properties will go back into the RDC accounts and help fund future projects.

- 12. Executive Session:** Chairman Julia Nelson entertained a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss a matter related to an employee, in accordance with Section 30-4-70 (a) (1) of the South Carolina Code. The motion was made by Mr. Sammie Tucker and seconded by Jim McCain. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Julia Nelson entertained a motion to come out of Executive Session, the motion made by Sammie Trucker and seconded by Vivian McGhaney. The motion passed unanimously. Chairman Julia Nelson reported that no action was taken during executive session.

- 13. Chairman's Remarks:** Chairman Julia Nelson, indicated that she intends to be very precise and brief in the meetings to respect everyone's time, but will slow down as requested.

At the Chairman's request, Executive Director McKinney informed the members that the COG conference will be held in Myrtle Beach on November 21st – 23rd, at the Embassy Suites. The Conference will adjourn on Tuesday November 23rd

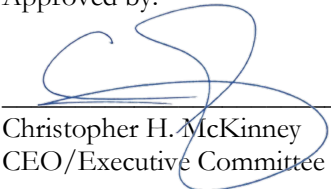
- 14. Adjourn:** Chairman Julia Nelson made the motion to adjourn the meeting Vivian McGhaney seconded it. All were in favor and the motion was passed unanimously.

Submitted by:



Linda Jackson
Board Clerk

Approved by:



Christopher H. McKinney
CEO/Executive Committee